

STATINTL

# Say CIA Meddles in Domestic Affairs - Even Union Elections

By DANIEL MASON

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE Agency (CIA) is actively engaged in influencing labor union elections and is meddling in other domestic affairs in the U.S.

This was indicated by Sen. J. W. Fulbright last Thursday in the course of an almost unanimous outburst of Senate indignation over a letter by CIA chief Richard Helms published in the St. Louis Globe Democrat. Helms' letter had gleefully hailed that newspaper for editorially attacking Fulbright because he had dared to call for a wider scrutiny by the Senate of the CIA's operations.

Only last week, the CIA, which is supposed to confine itself to foreign intelligence activities for the U.S. government, had blatantly interfered in domestic affairs by openly defending Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn), who is now being probed

for using his Senatorial influence to aid a U.S. agent for foreign firms and for misusing election campaign funds for his personal gain.

Last Thursday, too, it was revealed for the first time that it was the CIA which had set the line for the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in April, 1961. The disclosure was made in a highly censored version of the secret July 14 Senate debate over enlarging that body's CIA watchdog committee.

Senator Fulbright revealed the domestic meddling of the CIA in the course of his condemnation of CIA chief Helms' letter to the Globe Democrat.

The Arkansas Senator, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, declared that one reason he had wanted representation for his committee on the CIA watchdog committee was so he could question Helms as to whether the CIA "takes part in domestic affairs." Fulbright said he had heard reports

that "this agency takes part in the elections of unions."

It was after Fulbright disclosed this, that Sen. Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass) hastened to phone Helms and relay an apology from the CIA chief for having written the letter to the newspaper.

In that letter Helms had praised the Globe Democrat for having attacked the "crafty Arkansan."

The CIA has been particularly irritated with Fulbright, because he is the most influential critic of that organization's activities, and because he is one of the most vigorous opponents of President Johnson's Vietnam policy.

The CIA's annoyance was increased last Thursday with the publication of the censored report of the July 14 Senate debate. Fulbright, who had been a participant in the two-hour meeting with President Kennedy, the then CIA chief Allen W. Dulles and 15 other persons, when the decision for the Cuban invasion had been made, disclosed that Dulles had presented "the case for intervention."

Fulbright declared that it was this Cuban invasion and other cases of CIA intervention in U.S. foreign policy which impelled him to seek representation on the CIA watchdog committee. He said:

"I think many of the CIA activities tend to discredit the integrity of our country, and these activities raise a number of questions with respect to the influence of our foreign policy."